

Mineral Industry Surveys

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SILVER IN JUNE 2006

U.S. mines produced 94,000 kilograms (kg) of silver in June, a nominal decrease compared with revised May production of 94,400 kg, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. U.S. silver production decreased by about 12% compared with June 2005 production of 107,000 kg. For the first 6 months of 2006, U.S. production of 553,000 kg of silver was down by 17% compared with production of 667,000 kg during the first 6 months of 2005.

Englehard Industries' average silver price for June was \$10.83 per troy ounce, about a 20% decrease from the average May price of \$13.51 per troy ounce, and about 48% more than the average June 2005 price of \$7.33 per troy ounce. The price peaked on June 5 at \$12.29 per troy ounce.

Revett Minerals Inc. (Spokane Valley, WA) reported higher earnings in the second quarter of 2006 compared with earnings in the first quarter of 2006. This occurred despite lower mill throughput at the Troy Mine (Lincoln County, MT) owing to spring rains and rapid snow melt. Millhead grade and recovery for silver, however, increased to 62 grams per metric ton (1.8 ounces per short ton) and 88.6%, respectively. The company produced 7,400 kg (238,000 ounces) of silver in the second

quarter 2006 and a total of 15,900 kg (510,000 ounces) in the first half of 2006 (Revett Minerals Inc., 2006§¹).

Hecla Mining Company (Coeur d'Alene, ID) also indicated larger second quarter earnings because of overall higher prices for gold and silver. For the first 6 months of 2006, Hecla produced a total of 78,000 kg (2,500,000 ounces) of silver, and the Lucky Friday Mine in Idaho produced 23,200 kg (742,000 ounces) of silver (Hecla Mining Company, 2006§).

Internet References Cited

Hecla Mining Company, 2006 (August 2), Hecla reports dramatic increase in second quarter 2006 income, sales, gross profit and cash flow for the period ended June 30, 2006, accessed August 21, 2006, via <http://www.hecla-mining.com>.

Revett Minerals Inc., 2006 (August 10), Revett Minerals reports improving levels of quarterly profits, accessed August 21, 2006, via <http://www.revettminerals.com>.

¹References that include a section mark (§) are found in the Internet References Cited section.

TABLE 1
MINE PRODUCTION OF RECOVERABLE SILVER
IN THE UNITED STATES¹

	Kilograms
2005: ^p	
June	107,000
July	94,800
August	99,100
September	99,100
October	90,500
November	94,100
December	100,000
January-December	1,230,000
2006:	
January	90,300
February	87,400
March	102,000 ^r
April	85,200 ^r
May	94,400 ^r
June	94,000
January-June	553,000

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 2
SILVER PRICES

(Dollars per troy ounce)

Engelhard Industries:	
2005:	
Low/date	6.42 Jan. 4
High/date	9.17 Dec. 12
Average	7.34
2006:	
April:	
Low/date	11.63/5
High/date	14.30/19
Average	12.66
May:	
Low/date	12.26/19
High/date	14.89/11
Average	13.51
June:	
Low/date	9.89/14
High/date	12.29/5
Average	10.83
Year to date:	
Low/date	8.85 Jan. 5 and 18
High/date	14.89 May 11
Average	11.02
Handy and Harman:	
2005, average	7.34
2006:	
April	12.64
May	13.38
June	10.77
Year to date	10.98
London Final: ¹	
2005, average	7.32
2006:	
April	12.61
May	13.45
June	10.80
Year to date	10.99

¹Reported as "London Spot/US Equiv."

Source: Platts Metals Week.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS OF SILVER, BY COUNTRY¹

Period and country	Bullion		Doré		Ores and concentrates ²		Ash and residues		Total	
	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)
2005	3,880,000	\$902,000	300,000	\$89,500	433	\$318	2,630	\$769	4,180,000	\$993,000
2006:										
March	398,000	126,000	12,300	5,110	--	--	260	72	410,000	131,000
April	360,000	134,000	18,100	8,800	--	--	337	71	379,000	142,000
May:										
Canada	124,000	36,100	--	--	--	--	--	--	124,000	36,100
Colombia	--	--	344	128	--	--	--	--	344	128
Honduras	--	--	34	16	--	--	--	--	34	16
Mexico	166,000	72,400	7,470 ³	4,340	--	--	--	--	173,000	76,800
Panama	71	27	--	--	--	--	--	--	71	27
Peru	--	--	8,290	3,950	--	--	--	--	8,290	3,950
Taiwan	--	--	--	--	--	--	383	91	383	91
Total	290,000	109,000	16,100	8,440	--	--	383	91	307,000	117,000
Year to date	1,810,000	587,000	88,700	40,200	--	--	1,560	376	1,900,000	627,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes silver content of base metal ores and concentrates.

³All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS OF SILVER, BY COUNTRY¹

Period and country	Other unwrought silver (gross weight)		Metal powder (gross weight)		Silver nitrate (gross weight)		Semimanufactured forms ² (gross weight)		Waste and scrap (gross weight)	
	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)
2005	357,000	\$80,400	29,300	\$6,990	669	\$118	180,000	\$39,700	4,170,000	\$19,100
2006:										
March	31,900	10,700	1,300	444	--	--	6,590	1,610	265,000	11,500
April	14,600	4,220	1,430	241	--	--	15,500	5,370	425,000	32,900
May:										
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,490	691	183	421
Austria	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	60
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,000	335	28,200	1,510
Canada	1,070 ³	474	21 ³	15	--	--	653 ³	129	21,400	3,920
China	--	--	--	--	--	--	8,590 ³	7,770	3,680	508
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	26,100	912
Dominican Republic	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	220	224
France	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	25,400	243
Germany	--	--	1,390 ³	235	400	105	2,720 ³	1,450	316	1,330
Guatemala	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	126	358
Honduras	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4	2
India	--	--	--	--	--	--	7 ³	26	--	--
Ireland	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	29	121
Israel	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12,900	90
Italy	20	13	--	--	--	--	--	--	101	1,890
Japan	--	--	(4) ³	8	--	--	--	--	16	125
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20	218
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	4
Mexico	10,800 ³	3,610	--	--	--	--	--	--	36,000	3,580
Philippines	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	26
South Africa	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	40
Switzerland	15	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	100	15
United Kingdom	--	--	154 ³	45	--	--	--	--	34,100	2,910
Total	11,900	4,100	1,560	304	400	105	14,400	10,400	189,000	18,500
Year to date	137,000	42,500	5,930	1,350	900	191	89,600	32,500	1,260,000	88,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Containing 99.5% or more by weight of silver.

³All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

⁴Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF SILVER¹

Period and country	Bullion		Doré		Ores and concentrates ²		Total	
	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Silver content (kilograms)	Value (thousands)
2005	166,000	\$45,900	132,000	\$35,000	3,680	\$834	302,000	\$81,700
2006:								
March	139,000	70,400	6,820	2,160	103	33	146,000	72,600
April	161,000	52,800	8,350	2,860	24	7	169,000	55,700
May:								
Canada	19,800 ³	7,460	--	--	--	--	19,800	7,460
Germany	2,330 ³	420	--	--	--	--	2,330	420
Ireland	--	--	--	--	46	16	46	16
Mexico	95 ³	17	--	--	--	--	95	17
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	32 ³	6	32	6
Norway	--	--	376 ³	134	--	--	376	134
Singapore	--	--	45	18	--	--	45	18
Switzerland	--	--	5,280	2,240	--	--	5,280	2,240
United Kingdom	457,000 ³	197,000	1,270	504	--	--	458,000	198,000
Total	479,000	205,000	6,970	2,900	78	22	486,000	208,000
Year to date	805,000	336,000	36,500	12,200	2,120	3,600	844,000	352,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes silver content of base metal ores and concentrates.

³All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 6
U.S. EXPORTS OF SILVER¹

Period and country	Other unwrought silver (gross weight)		Metal powder (gross weight)		Silver nitrate (gross weight)		Semimanufactured forms ² (gross weight)		Waste and scrap (gross weight)	
	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)	Quantity (kilograms)	Value (thousands)
2005	20,600	\$5,290	809,000	\$139,000	56,600	\$4,180	308,000	\$54,500	2,880,000	\$576,000
2006:										
March	5,200	2,110	126,000	21,500	3,990	460	38,900	6,750	346,000	76,300
April	1,110	300	145,000	24,700	1,640	184	47,800	8,390	400,000	76,900
May:										
Azerbaijan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2,160	281
Belgium	--	--	672 ³	123	--	--	--	--	30,000	9,110
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,170 ³	201	--	--
Canada	22,700 ³	9,080	3,330 ³	568	3,780 ³	181	22,500 ³	3,860	112,000	19,900
China	2 ³	6	3,560 ³	606	--	--	817 ³	139	68,000	8,430
France	88 ³	20	1,930 ³	328	--	--	792 ³	144	--	--
Germany	118 ³	22	19,300 ³	3,950	2 ³	3	810 ³	139	88,700	20,000
Hong Kong	47	20	3,420 ³	587	--	--	2,820 ³	488	1,460	190
Ireland	--	--	134 ³	23	--	--	--	--	--	--
Italy	--	--	--	--	--	--	241 ³	43	64,200	19,700
Japan	--	--	25,800 ³	5,050	--	--	7	3	27,600	8,100
Korea, Republic of	5 ³	4	20,600 ³	3,510	--	--	121 ³	21	4,070	529
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	--	--	186 ³	32	645	88
Mexico	79	21	607 ³	103	140	52	17,100 ³	2,950	--	--
Netherlands	--	--	534 ³	91	--	--	2,710 ³	471	--	--
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	16,200	2,100
Singapore	--	--	8,440 ³	1,440	--	--	522 ³	89	--	--
South Africa	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5,850	761
Spain	--	--	--	--	--	--	2,510 ³	427	--	--
Sri Lanka	--	--	--	--	330 ³	33	--	--	--	--
Sweden	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	25,200	3,280
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	--	101 ³	17	1,080	14,200
Taiwan	--	--	34,800 ³	5,920	--	--	365 ³	62	15,800	1,620
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	971 ³	168	1,260	350
United Kingdom	--	--	13,400 ³	2,290	--	--	552 ³	94	6,570	901
Other	102 ³	38	27 ³	5	--	--	615 ³	109	19	22
Total	23,100	9,220	137,000	24,600	4,250	269	54,900	9,460	470,000	110,000
Year to date	34,900	13,000	586,000	101,000	19,300	1,490	198,000	34,400	1,800,000	377,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Containing 99.5% or more by weight of silver.

³All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.